



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	01-25-01	Interpretation #	01-001
Topic	Automatic Fire Sprinklers		
Code Section(s)	§904.1.2, California Building Code		
Requested by	William Ferguson, Building Official City of Adelanto PO Box 10 Adelanto, CA 92301		
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Does Section 1.6.1 of NFPA 13 take precedence over the Section 904 of the UBC or the Uniform Fire Code?

The State Fire Marshal currently adopts the 1998 California Building Code which references the 1996 NFPA Standard #13 (*Installation of Sprinkler Systems*) as the minimum standard for the installation of fire sprinkler systems in California (reference §904.1.2 CBC). Thus, because the 1996 NFPA 13 is the adopted standard for the installation of fire sprinkler systems, the question in this particular case of whether NFPA 13 prevails is moot.

Regarding to the Uniform Fire Code, the State Fire Marshal adopts the 1998 California Fire Code, which is essentially the 1997 Uniform Fire Code amended to meet the specific needs of California. However, the State Fire Marshal does not adopt the Uniform Fire Code in its entirety. Therefore, those provisions of the Uniform Fire Code that are not adopted by the State Fire Marshal may be adopted as local ordinances by local fire authorities having jurisdiction.

How does the State Fire Marshal administer this issue? Does SFM recognize or allow partially protected buildings?

According to the §1-6.2 of NFPA #13 (1996 ed.), “[w]hen partial sprinkler systems are installed, the requirements of this standard shall be used insofar as they are applicable. The authority having jurisdiction shall be consulted in each case”. Thus, this provision in the NFPA #13 (1996 ed.) permits partial sprinkler systems if permitted by the authority having jurisdiction. In this particular case, the State Fire Marshal is the authority having jurisdiction, and adopts the 1998 California Building Code, which permits partial fire sprinkler systems under certain circumstances.